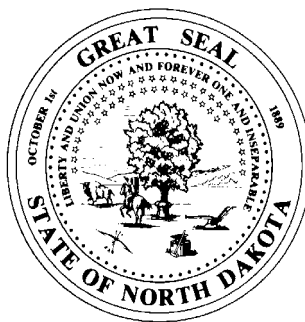


STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2002



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The term "homicide," for purposes of this report, includes the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offenses of murder and non-negligent manslaughter. Homicide refers to the "willful killing of one human being by another." It does not include attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicides or deaths caused by gross negligence.

HOMICIDE IN 2002

- In 2002, six homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 634,110, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 0.9 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Two of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Four of the victims were adults. "Adult" is defined as a person aged 18 or older. See Table 1 on page 2 for a summary of homicide incidents in 2002.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of two homicide victims. One victim died as the result of strangulation. Two victims died as the result of beatings. In one of the incidents, the weapon involved was unknown.
- **Domestic Violence:** Four of the six homicides in 2002 resulted from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** All of the identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** All of the identified assailants were adults.
- While tribal law enforcement agencies and any other federal law enforcement entities in the state do not participate in the state UCR program, every effort is made to include all homicide incidents occurring within the state's borders.

Table 1
Summary of Homicide Incidents
North Dakota, 2002

Date and Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapon Used	Relationship of Victim(s) to Assailant(s)	Circumstances
	AGE	SEX	AGE	SEX			
1/27/2002 Dickinson	28	F	28	M	Handgun	Ex-wife	Victim & assailant were found dead in home with single gunshot wounds. Apparent murder/suicide.
2/15/2002 Devils Lake	7-wk-old	M	28	M	Personal Weapon	Son	Victim was thrown across the room in an infant seat & suffered multiple internal injuries with head injury.
8/1/2002 Spirit Lake Reservation	36	F	20	M	Firearm	Aunt	Domestic dispute murder/suicide.
10/15/2002 Bismarck	1	F	25	M	Personal Weapon	Daughter of Assailant's girlfriend	Domestic violence. Victim was discovered not breathing in bed.
11/5/2002 Penn Ramsey County	19	M			Not Reported		Victim was found dead in a shelterbelt.
12/27/2002 Driscoll Burleigh County	73	F	21	M	Strangulation	Acquaintance	Victim was sexually assaulted and murdered.

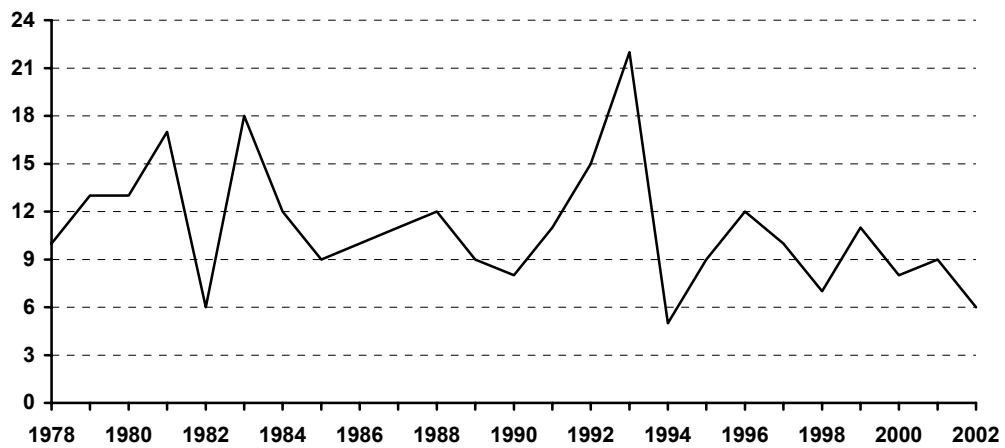
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 on page 3 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1978-2002.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.

Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
1978	10	651,000	1.5
1979	13	652,000	2.0
1980	13	652,700	2.0
1981	17	652,200	2.6
1982	6	670,000	0.9
1983	18	680,000	2.6
1984	12	686,000	1.7
1985	9	686,000	1.3
1986	10	679,000	1.5
1987	11	672,000	1.6
1988	12	663,000	1.8
1989	9	660,000	1.4
1990	8	638,800	1.3
1991	11	635,000	1.7
1992	15	636,000	2.4
1993	22	635,000	3.5
1994	5	638,000	0.8
1995	9	641,000	1.4
1996	12	644,000	1.9
1997	10	641,000	1.6
1998	7	638,000	1.1
1999	11	634,000	1.7
2000	8	642,200	1.2
2001	9	634,450	1.4
2002	6	634,110	0.9

Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
1978-2002



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Fifty-nine percent of the 273 total homicide victims during the period 1978-2002 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Year	Male	Female	Total
1978	6	4	10
1979	10	3	13
1980	9	4	13
1981	9	8	17
1982	3	3	6
1983	10	8	18
1984	5	7	12
1985	7	2	9
1986	8	2	10
1987	6	5	11
1988	8	4	12
1989	4	5	9
1990	3	5	8
1991	4	7	11
1992	10	5	15
1993	15	7	22
1994	1	4	5
1995	6	3	9
1996	6	6	12
1997	7	3	10
1998	5	2	7
1999	7	4	11
2000	4	4	8
2001	7	2	9
2002	2	4	6
Total 1978-2002	162 (59%)	111 (41%)	273

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 273 homicides during the period 1978-2002, 85 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Forty-eight percent of homicide victims were between the ages of 21 and 40. See Table 5 on the following page for information regarding age and gender of victims.

**Table 4
Homicide Victims
Juvenile and Adult
North Dakota, 1978-2002**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Age Unknown	Total
1978		10		10
1979	3	10		13
1980	3	10		13
1981	2	15		17
1982		6		6
1983	2	15	1	18
1984	5	7		12
1985		9		9
1986		10		10
1987	2	9		11
1988	1	11		12
1989	2	7		9
1990		8		8
1991	3	8		11
1992	3	12		15
1993	7	15		22
1994		5		5
1995	2	7		9
1996		12		12
1997		10		10
1998	1	6		7
1999	1	10		11
2000		8		8
2001		9		9
2002	2	4		6
Total 1978-2002	39	233	1	273

Table 5
Homicide Victims
by Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Age	Male	Female	Total
Unknown		1	1
Less than 1 year	6	6	12
01-05	4	5	9
06-10	1	6	7
11-15	2	3	5
16-20	15	6	21
21-25	30	10	40
26-30	20	13	33
31-35	12	13	25
36-40	17	15	32
41-45	13	7	20
46-50	11	7	18
51-55	11	6	17
56-60	1	3	4
61-65	6	3	9
Over 65	13	7	20
Total 1978-2002	162	111	273

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Fifty-one percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1978-2002 resulted from firearm use. See Table 6 below.
- In homicides involving firearms, the weapon was more likely to be a long gun than a handgun.
- Twenty-five of the 273 total homicide deaths involved the use of "personal weapons." Personal weapons include the use of hands, fists and feet as weapons.

**Table 6
Weapons of Homicide
North Dakota, 1978-2002**

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
1978	4	4	1		1		10
1979	3	3	2	1	3	1	13
1980	5	5	2			1	13
1981	3	5	3		1	5	17
1982		3	3				6
1983		9	4	2		3	18
1984	5	2				5	12
1985	3	2	1		2	1	9
1986	3	1	2	2	1	1	10
1987	2	4	5				11
1988	9				2	1	12
1989	2	3	2		1	1	9
1990	3	1	2	1	1		8
1991		4	1	1		5	11
1992	2	6	4	2	1		15
1993	6	4	5	2	2	3	22
1994	1	2				2	5
1995	2	2	1	2		2	9
1996	3	4	4			1	12
1997		1	1	2	4	2	10
1998		3	2			2	7
1999	1	4	3	1		2	11
2000	2	1	2	1	2		8
2001	2	2	1		2	2	9
2002	1	1			2	2	6
Total 1978-2002	62	76	51	17	25	42	273

- Firearms were used in 44 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Fifty-two percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty-six percent of homicides of males and 57 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty-three percent of homicides of males and 12 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

Table 7
Homicide Victims
by Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Age Unknown	Total
Handgun	8	54		62
Other Firearm	9	67		76
Knife	1	50		51
Blunt Instrument	2	15		17
Personal Weapon	7	18		25
Other or Unknown	12	29	1	42
Total 1978-2002	39	233	1	273

Table 8
Homicide Victims
by Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	37	25	62
Other Firearm	38	38	76
Knife	38	13	51
Blunt Instrument	13	4	17
Personal Weapon	16	9	25
Other or Unknown	20	22	42
Total 1978-2002	162	111	273

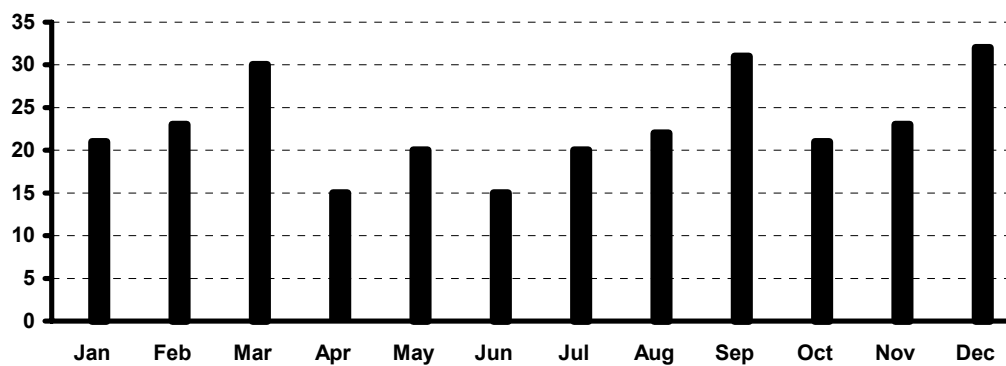
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1978-2002, the month of December had the highest number of deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

Table 9
Deaths Due to Homicide
by Month, 1978-2002

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	21	7.7 %
February	23	8.4
March	30	11.0
April	15	5.5
May	20	7.3
June	15	5.5
July	20	7.3
August	22	8.1
September	31	11.4
October	21	7.7
November	23	8.4
December	32	11.7
Total 1978-2002	273	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 1978-2002



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS

For purposes of this report, domestic violence deaths include those involving a spouse, former spouse, parent, child, persons related by blood or marriage, persons in a present or former dating relationship, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time, other persons on premises when a domestic incident occurs, and romantic triangle situations.

- For the period 1978-2002, 50 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
1978	5	4	1	10
1979	4	9		13
1980	7	6		13
1981	8	7	2	17
1982	4	1	1	6
1983	7	10	1	18
1984	10	2		12
1985	2	7		9
1986	5	4	1	10
1987	3	7	1	11
1988	6	5	1	12
1989	5	3	1	9
1990	5	2	1	8
1991	5	4	2	11
1992	11	4		15
1993	11	11		22
1994	4	1		5
1995	3	6		9
1996	7	5		12
1997	2	8		10
1998	5	2		7
1999	6	5		11
2000	6	1	1	8
2001	1	4	4	9
2002	4	1	1	6
Total 1978-2002	136	119	18	273

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Sixty-nine percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 30 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-two percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 35 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
by Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun	5	29	3	20
Other Firearm	8	44	1	21
Knife		21	1	25
Blunt Instrument	1	4	1	11
Personal Weapon	6	4	1	13
Other or Unknown	5	9	6	16
Total 1978-2002	25	111	13	106

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
by Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	13	21	19	4
Other Firearm	18	34	18	4
Knife	14	7	21	5
Blunt Instrument	1	4	12	
Personal Weapon	5	5	11	3
Other or Unknown	5	9	11	11
Total 1978-2002	56	80	92	27

CLEARANCE RATES

- Cases may be "cleared by arrest" of an assailant, or "cleared exceptionally," if a physical arrest cannot be made for reasons beyond the control of law enforcement. An example of an exceptional clearance would be a case in which the assailant committed suicide after killing someone.
- "Clearances" should not be interpreted as "convictions." The information regarding clearances, collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, reflects law enforcement activity. If an arrest is made, the UCR program considers the case cleared. UCR data does not reflect the results of prosecution of assailants.
- The average clearance rate for homicides in North Dakota during the period from 1978 to 2002 is 93 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
1978	9	10	90 %	76 %
1979	13	13	100	73
1980	13	13	100	72
1981	15	17	88	72
1982	5	6	83	74
1983	17	18	94	76
1984	12	12	100	74
1985	9	9	100	72
1986	9	10	90	70
1987	10	11	91	70
1988	11	12	92	70
1989	8	9	89	68
1990	7	8	88	67
1991	9	11	82	67
1992	15	15	100	65
1993	22	22	100	66
1994	5	5	100	64
1995	9	9	100	65
1996	12	12	100	67
1997	10	10	100	66
1998	7	7	100	69
1999	11	11	100	69
2000	7	8	88	63
2001	5	9	56	63
2002	5	6	83	Not Available

* Clearance rates reported in annual Crime in the United States reports published by the FBI.

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1978-2002, 89 percent of the 267 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Eighteen homicides during 1978-2002 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
by Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Year	Male	Female	Total
1978	9		9 *
1979	14	2	16
1980	15	1	16
1981	9	3	12 *
1982	4	1	5 *
1983	17	2	19 *
1984	8		8
1985	12		12
1986	8		8 *
1987	10		10 *
1988	9	3	12 *
1989	8		8 *
1990	3	3	6 *
1991	8		8 *
1992	11	3	14
1993	17	3	20
1994	4	1	5
1995	19		19
1996	13	2	15
1997	8	1	9
1998	5	2	7
1999	8	1	9
2000	7	1	8 *
2001	7		7 *
2002	5		5 *
Total 1978-2002	238 (89%)	29 (11%)	267

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

- Eighty-six percent of the total 267 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 267 assailants identified by law enforcement, 66 percent were between the ages of 16 and 35. See Table 16 on the following page for information on age and gender of identified assailants.

Table 15
Identified Homicide Assailants
Juvenile and Adult
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1978	2	7	9 *
1979	2	14	16
1980	7	9	16
1981		12	12 *
1982		5	5 *
1983		19	19 *
1984	1	7	8
1985		12	12
1986		8	8 *
1987	2	8	10 *
1988		12	12 *
1989	2	6	8 *
1990		6	6 *
1991	1	7	8 *
1992	2	12	14
1993	3	17	20
1994		5	5
1995	13	6	19
1996	1	14	15
1997		9	9
1998	1	6	7
1999		9	9
2000		8	8 *
2001		7	7 *
2002		5	5 *
Total 1978-2002	37 (14%)	230 (86%)	267

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

Table 16
Identified Homicide Assailants
by Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Age	Male	Female	Total
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	19	2	21
16-20	47	4	51
21-25	53	3	56
26-30	35	2	37
31-35	26	7	33
36-40	17	4	21
41-45	16	6	22
46-50	7		7
51-55	5	1	6
56-60	5		5
61-65	4		4
Over 65	4		4
Total 1978-2002	238	29	267

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile assailants were much more likely to use firearms other than handguns. For adults, long guns were used only slightly more often than handguns.
- Male assailants were more likely to use firearms in homicide incidents, while females were more likely to use knives.
- For incidents involving the use of firearms, male assailants were more likely to use rifles or shotguns than handguns. Conversely, females were more likely to use handguns than other types of firearms.

Table 17
Identified Assailants
by Type of Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	2	49	51
Other Firearm	19	54	73
Knife	6	52	58
Blunt Instrument	4	19	23
Personal Weapon	2	24	26
Other or Unknown	4	32	36
Total 1978-2002	37	230	267

Table 18
Identified Assailants
by Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	45	6	51
Other Firearm	69	4	73
Knife	45	13	58
Blunt Instrument	22	1	23
Personal Weapon	25	1	26
Other or Unknown	32	4	36
Total 1978-2002	238	29	267

- Forty-five percent of assailants identified by law enforcement were involved in domestic violence incidents. See Table 19 below.
- Assailants were more likely to use firearms in domestic incidents than in non-domestic incidents. See Table 20.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
1978	4	5	9 *
1979	5	11	16
1980	9	7	16
1981	7	5	12 *
1982	4	1	5 *
1983	4	15	19 *
1984	6	2	8
1985	2	10	12
1986	4	4	8 *
1987	3	7	10 *
1988	6	6	12 *
1989	4	4	8 *
1990	4	2	6 *
1991	4	4	8 *
1992	8	6	14
1993	8	12	20
1994	4	1	5
1995	4	15	19
1996	7	8	15
1997	2	7	9
1998	5	2	7
1999	5	4	9
2000	6	2	8 *
2001	1	6	7 *
2002	4	1	5 *
Total 1978-2002	120 (45%)	147 (55%)	267

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

Table 20
Weapon Use by Identified Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	28	23	51
Other Firearm	42	31	73
Knife	21	37	58
Blunt Instrument	4	19	23
Personal Weapon	11	15	26
Other or Unknown	14	22	36
Total 1978-2002	120	147	267

- Blunt instruments were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-two percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 41 percent for males. See Table 22.

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
by Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun	1	27	1	22
Other Firearm	5	37	14	17
Knife	3	18	3	34
Blunt Instrument		4	4	15
Personal Weapon	1	10	1	14
Other or Unknown	2	12	2	20
Total 1978-2002	12	108	25	122

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
by Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1978-2002

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	24	4	21	2
Other Firearm	38	4	31	
Knife	11	10	34	3
Blunt Instrument	4		18	1
Personal Weapon	10	1	15	
Other or Unknown	12	2	20	2
Total 1978-2002	99	21	139	8